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## HISTORICAL NOTES

### LETTER FROM JOSEPH BAILY<sup>1</sup>

1672

The following letter was written by one Joseph Baily, an official of the colony of Charles Town, Carolina, to the English ambassador in Spain, and was intercepted by the Spaniards. Baily had been sent to Saint Augustine in June, 1670, to demand the release of some Englishmen, who had been captured by the Spaniards. Instead of securing the liberty of his countrymen, he himself was imprisoned, the Spanish governor feeling that it would be unwise to allow the Englishman, said to be second in command in the English colony, to return to Carolina, and report the defenceless condition of the Spanish post. Baily's letter was sent to the Council of the Indies, and an investigation was ordered, but the outcome does not appear. The letter is interesting, not only on account of its quaint style, but also for the side light it throws upon early Anglo-Spanish relations on the Carolina-Florida frontier, and for its corroboration of the fact that the Carolina colony was first known as Saint George, the designation almost invariably employed by the Spaniards until well into the eighteenth century.<sup>2</sup>

W. E. DUNN,  
*University of Texas, Austin.*

Right Honor<sup>ble</sup>

being employed one a voyage by y<sup>e</sup> Lord Duke of Albamarle the Lord Ashlee the Lord Crauen and others the propriators for the Settling a Collonie in the prouinces of Carolina one of o<sup>r</sup> vessels faling to the South ward of her port put into a port of the Spaniards Caled St Cattalena who not being aquainted with that coast

<sup>1</sup> The *Shaftesbury papers* (vol. 5, *Collections* So. Ca. Historical Society) gives us much information concerning Capt. Joseph Bailey.—EDITOR.

<sup>2</sup> The letter is preserved in the General Archive of the Indies, Seville, Spain, Audiencia de Santo Domingo, estange 58, cajón 1, legajo 26. Spanish discussion in regard to it is found in a communication of Francisco de la Guerra y de la Vega, former governor of Florida, to Francisco Fernandez de Madrigal, July 12, 1673, *Ibid.*

presumed it to be the port where to they wear bound wher being Sum feaw dayes and wishing to procure water and poruisions of which they were in great want were treacherously seased on by the Indians and eight of them inhumanly mured the rest hardly escaping with y<sup>e</sup> vessell with one mariner and with much dificultie arived at there intended port caled Charles Town on Ashley Riuer: whoe giuing the relation there to o<sup>r</sup> gouernour ordred myselfe hauing y<sup>e</sup> language and some others w<sup>th</sup> Letters to y<sup>e</sup> gouernour of S<sup>t</sup> Agustene in order to the releasing of o<sup>r</sup> men none of which as yeat were knowne to be kiled the which gouernour Don Fransisco De Gerra instead of releasing o<sup>r</sup> men that were liuing detained me a prisoner and likewise dispatched thre ships well mand with fourteen piragoes mand with Spaniards and indians by forse of arms to cause them to surrender or on y<sup>e</sup> contrary to enter with fire and Sword alwhich by y<sup>e</sup> disposihand of god was preuented by there cables breaking when they were at anchor on y<sup>e</sup> bar of Ashly riuer here is come to the gouernment of this place before the departure of Don Fransisco De gerra the Honorable Don Manoel de Pandoya [Cendoya] to whom I was deliuered by y<sup>e</sup> other a prisner who is pleased to let me know he can by noe means releas me untill order comes from y<sup>e</sup> Quene and counsell of Spane to whom he hath sent my declaration taken here upon oath as to o<sup>r</sup> pretensions in settling o<sup>r</sup> colonie. I stand much obleig<sup>d</sup> to the favours of this Gouernor who in this excells the former whoe is pleased to furnish me and my Lord Ashleys kinsman a prisner with me with moneys and offer of anything I may haue nessesary or wish for.

S<sup>r</sup> about four or fiue months Since the gouernor was pleasd to Send by the hand of a Soldier a Letter to o<sup>r</sup> Gouernor S<sup>r</sup> John Yeomans certifying of sum english prisners that were deliuered into his posesion by his Antesor whoe was pleasd to redemand my-Selfe and fiue more with me aledging the artcils of the late pease concluded betwene there ma<sup>ts</sup> of England and Spaine Rg<sup>ht</sup> Hono<sup>ble</sup>. I haue ben detained hear prissoner two years and a halfe and altogether through the Ill dispositions of y<sup>e</sup> former Gouernor who Contrary to Justice and y<sup>e</sup> knowne laws and customs of nations forced me a prisner coming with a flag of pease and impowered to treat peasably as to y<sup>e</sup> releasing of o<sup>r</sup> men yeat notwithstanding proseds thinking the euells he had don cold not be safe but by attempting greater

Rgh<sup>t</sup> Hono<sup>ble</sup> my Seruants and goods I brought from England to y<sup>e</sup> vallew of two or thre hundred pounds are all imbesseld as by a letter from that towne and informed which is to my utter undoeing therefore adress mySelfe to your honour for Justise and that I may not be altogether ruined both in my person and estate through the uniust prosedings of y<sup>e</sup> afore said Don Fransisco De gerra

I haue the rather presumed one your honours fauours In regard of Sum knowledg and acquaintance with that Honorable Geltlman Sr Francis Godolfin and hour honours familly when Lodging in westminster

Thear is every year diuers shipps and vessells of o<sup>r</sup> nation pass along one this Coast whoe falling among the barbarous Indians are put to extreame hassards and loss of Life all which may be preuented if an Agent were Settled in this place with power to that effect and likewise would be of great Concerne for y<sup>e</sup> Conceruing of a true understanding betweene those of o<sup>r</sup> Collonie and this place and to returne our ways one y<sup>e</sup> one part and on y<sup>e</sup> other I had reason to expect the Lords propriators would haue taken order for my releasment in regard I suffer in their Concerns and not for y<sup>e</sup> leaste Intrest of mine owne pticuler I haue write (sic) formerly to your honour nominating the place of our english Settlement S<sup>t</sup> georges it being soe called in the time of the former Gouvernor deceased

I shall with Longing expectations waite your honours orders in relation to y<sup>e</sup> premises and Craue Leaue to Subscribe mySelfe your Honours most humble Seruant

JOSEPH BAILY [Original]

S.<sup>t</sup> Agusten one Florida  
Desember y<sup>e</sup> 12.<sup>th</sup> 1672

#### THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE, 1803

A South Carolina Federalist on the purchase of Louisiana:

John Rutledge<sup>3</sup> to Harrison Gray Otis of Boston.—Weathersfield, Oct. 1, 1803.

. . . . "I really believe the fever of democracy has had its crisis here and that things will now be growing better and better. . . . Our *Master* [Jefferson] will have mighty fine tales

<sup>3</sup> A son of Gov. John Rutledge, and generally known as Gen. John Rutledge.